



# What does a 5-paragraph essay look like?

## Opening paragraph

- 3-5 sentences
- Starts broad and then gradually narrows to the thesis. In other words:
  1. Begin with a general statement about the subject (you can restate the question in your own words, showing your understanding of the topic).
  2. Then start discussing your position.
  3. End the opening paragraph with your thesis statement.

## Three supporting paragraphs

- 5-8 sentences each
- Discuss one example in each supporting paragraph.
- Make sure to explain how each example supports your argument.
- Go beyond superficial statements.
- End each supporting paragraph with a statement directly explaining how this example supports your thesis.

## Closing paragraph

- 3-5 sentences
- Your closing paragraph can either start with a restatement of your thesis and then broaden, or begin with a broad summary and end with a restatement of your thesis.
- Summarize your arguments.
- Feel free to include one last thought-provoking comment to show that you understand the topic.

